

clinical emphasis (i.e., rotations), with interns being granted increasing independence as appropriate. Interns will begin the internship with a clear understanding of the expectations for the training year, with more detailed, rotation-specific guidance offered prior to the start of each rotation by their individual supervisors. The internship program at the Erie VAMC emphasizes fostering effective clinical practice that is built upon the critical application of theoretical and empirical literature. We train interns to implement and promote established, efficacious treatment and encourage the use of theoretical and empirical literature to enhance their professional skills over time. In addition, we promote the notion that knowledge, skill development, self-reflection, and interdisciplinary collaboration are integral to improving the treatment process.

The internship training program is designed to provide generalist preparation for clinical practice through a range of experiences involving assessment, therapy, and consultation. The training team will work in cooperation with interns to devise a training schedule that builds on the interns' knowledge and experiences, to strengthen areas of growth, and further develop areas of interest. Supervision will be guided by the interns' needs using a developmental model, such that opportunities for increasingly independent practice will be offered as competency is established.

Our training program emphasizes the psychosocial model of recovery and the empowerment of Veterans to recover from mental health difficulties. When indicated, we emphasize the use of empirically supported therapies including Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression, CBT for Insomnia, and Interpersonal Therapy for Depression, to name a few.

Our program incorporates experiential and didactic training to develop the following profession-wide competencies:

1. Research – Interns will be able to integrate current research and literature into their clinical practice and demonstrate critical thinking skills when presenting and discussing relevant research.
2. Ethical and legal standards - Interns will demonstrate knowledge of ethical and legal principles including the APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct. They will demonstrate an awareness of ethical dilemmas as they arise and apply ethical principles in decision making processes.
3. Individual and cultural diversity – Interns will demonstrate an awareness of their own personal/cultural background that may affect their case conceptualizations and subsequent treatment planning. They will show an understanding of current theoretical and empirical knowledge related to individual and cultural diversity, and independently apply this knowledge in working effectively with a range of diverse individuals, groups, and communities.
4. Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors - Interns will conduct themselves across settings and contexts in a professional manner with staff and patients, consistent with the values and attitudes of psychology. They will show openness and responsiveness to feedback from supervision. They will demonstrate the ability to manage work load and administrative tasks, as well as complete timely documentation. Interns will demonstrate professional judgment and responsibility with increasing independence and autonomy commensurate with increasing competency development throughout the training year.
5. Communication and interpersonal skills – Interns will communicate effectively verbally, nonverbally, and in writing. They will communicate psychological information to other professionals as well as patients and their families in a manner that is organized, concise, and understandable.
6. Assessment - Interns will be able to assess patients with a broad range of problems using a variety of psychological assessment instruments. They will gain proficiency in selecting assessment measurements, conducting clinical interviews, and integrating information from multiple sources to formulate accurate DSM diagnoses and develop clear case conceptualization that lead to appropriate treatment plans and recommendations tailored to answer referral questions.
7. Intervention - Interns will be able to establish and maintain therapeutic rapport in the context of